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ABSTRACT

This book focuses on grassroots projects and organizations for people, especially women, who have been stigmatized as "Other." An introduction discusses the concept of "Other"; Listening Partners, a short-term project for bringing isolated mothers living in rural poverty into voice; and the leadership tradition. Chapter 1 considers dualism, such as defining men as Human and women as Other, and its consequences. Chapter 2 reviews research on Otherness, including epistemological, ego, and moral development and gender differences: women's identity, moral, and epistemological development. Chapter 3 describes Listening Partners' goals, participants, and activities. Chapters 4-5 describe the research context and protocol of Listening Partners and presents findings from program implementation and evaluation. Chapter 6 discusses the study of four well-established, successful projects (public homeplaces) women have created to bring an excluded group into voice and encourage them to become fuller participants in community life. Chapters 7-9 describe the public homeplaces: Mothers' Center Movements in Germany and the United States, National Congress of Neighborhood Women, and Center for Cultural and Community Development. Chapter 10 identifies commonalities in their philosophies and practices--metaphors to live by, dialogue, and praxis--and describes approaches to developmentally oriented leadership. Chapter 11 offers suggestions for passing on the tradition. Appendixes include instruments, endnotes, and index. The book contains 304 references. (YLB)

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